ANNUAL REPORT

of the

STANDING COMMITTEE

on

RESOURCES

2004 - 2005

Third and Fourth Sittings in the First Session of the Fifty-Ninth General Assembly

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

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Hon. Murray Scott
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker,

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Resources, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Committee for the Third and Fourth Sittings in the First Session of the Fifty-Ninth General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted

John MacDonell, MLA
(Hants East)
Chairman
Standing Committee on Resources

Halifax, Nova Scotia
November 2005

Printed on paper that contains recycled fibre

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INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Resources, an all-party Committee of the House of Assembly, was struck at the beginning of the First Session of the Fifty-Ninth General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2)(d) of the ***Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedures of the House of Assembly:***

> **(e)** the Resources Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of the Departments and Ministers of Agriculture and Marketing, of the Environment, of Fisheries and of Natural Resources. 1987 R. 60(2); am. 1993; am. 1996.[1]

The membership of the Standing Committee on Resources currently is as follows:

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA - Chairman
Hants East

Mr. Bill Dooks, MLA - Vice Chairman
Eastern Shore

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA
Colchester North

Mr. Gary Hines, MLA
Waverley – Fall River – Beaver Bank

Mr. Charlie Parker, MLA
Pictou West

Ms. Joan Massey, MLA
Dartmouth East

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
Clare

Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA
Preston

Mr. Gerald Sampson, MLA
Victoria – The Lakes

[1] **Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly, July 1999, Rule 60(2)(e) Pages 61-62.**

PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Resources Committee traditionally meets once a month. These meetings are held on the middle Tuesday of the month in the Legislative Committees Office. During the Third and Fourth Sittings in the First Session of the Fifty-Ninth General Assembly the Committee met on the following dates:

September 28, 2004
October 19, 2004
November 23, 2004
February 8, 2005
March 8, 2005
May 17, 2005
June 21, 2005

NOTICES

Notices of the Resources Committee meetings are sent to all Members of the Committee, staff of the caucus offices, the Legislative staff and the House of Assembly Press Gallery. The notices are also posted in Province House and are on the Committee's web-site at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/schedr.html

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts of all Resources Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the Resources Committee's web page at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/

RESEARCH MATERIAL

All research for the Resources Committee is compiled by the Committee's clerk, and distributed to the members. Reference material is placed in binders and distributed one week prior to meetings. A copy of this material is also made available to the witnesses appearing before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Province House and to Hansard Recording Services.

ANNUAL REPORTS

All reports from the Resources Committee are compiled and written by the Committee's clerk. The draft is then sent to the individual Committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the Report, the Chairman tables the Report with the Clerk of the House.

Distribution of the report is as follows: to the Speaker/Clerk of the House, all members of the Legislature, all witnesses that appeared before the Committee, the Legislative Library in Nova Scotia and in all other provinces and territories, the Caucus Offices and the Media. This report is also available to the general public upon request through the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the Committee's web page at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/resources_pubs.html

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Standing Committee on Resources wishes to extend its gratitude to witnesses for their time and cooperation; Ms. Mora Stevens, clerk of the Resources Committee and the staff of the Legislative Committees Office for the organization and research of committee meetings. Others whose assistance has been invaluable to the Committee are: Mr. Robert Kinsman, Editor of Hansard, and Hansard staff; Mr. James MacInnes, Coordinator/Director Legislative Television and Broadcast Services, and staff; Ms. Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian, and staff.

WITNESSES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004	**Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia** Mr. Jonathan Porter - President Mr. Downey Thompson - Past President Mr. Steve Talbot - Executive Director Mr. Stephen McIntosh - Communications Director
Tuesday, October 19, 2004	**Groupe Savoie Western Division** Mr. Jean Claude Savoie - President Mr. Alain Bosse - General Manager Mr. Jonathon Levesque - Manager
Tuesday, November 23, 2004	**Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia (AANS)** Mr. Brian Muise - Executive Director - AANS Mr. Brian Blanchard - Secretary – AANS, General Manager Scotian Halibut Ltd. Mr. Glen Brown - Past President – AANS, President Admiral Fish Farms
Tuesday, February 8, 2005	**Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association** Mr. Dave Crawford - President Ms. Kay Wallace - Community Research Coordinator **Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association** Mr. Mike Newell - President Mr. Eugene O'Leary - Member
Tuesday, March 8, 2005	**Lobster Fishing Association (LFA) 33** Mr. Wilford Smith - Co-Chair LFA 33 - Lobster Committee **Lobster Fishing Association (LFA) 34** Mr. Ashton Spinney - Co-Chair - LFA 34 Advisory Committee, President - LFA Lobster Committee Mr. L. Wayne Spinney - Vice President – LFA 34 Lobster Committee, Vice President – West Nova Fisherman's Coalition

WITNESSES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005	**Department of Fisheries and Oceans** Mr. Les Burke - Regional Director - Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Mr. Andrew McMaster - Acting Senior Advisor for Large Pelagics **Also in attendance** **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries** Mr. Clary Reardon - Marine Advisor
Tuesday, June 21, 2005	**Department of Agriculture and Fisheries** Ms. Rosalind Penfound - Deputy Minister Mr. Greg Roach - Executive Director – Fisheries and Aquaculture Services Ms. Nadine MacAulay - Manager – Fisheries, Licensing and Investigations

PUBLIC

HEARINGS

Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

WITNESSES

Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia

Mr. Jonathan Porter
President

Mr. Downey Thompson
Past President

Mr. Steve Talbot
Executive Director

Mr. Stephen McIntosh
Communications Director

BACKGROUND

The Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia (FPANS) is a non-government organization representing a diverse range of forest product producers in Nova Scotia and has been the voice of the forest industry since 1934. Current membership in the Association totals nearly 1,000 people.

There is a diverse membership in FPANS representing industries such as sawmills, silviculture and pulp and paper as well as Christmas tree growers, maple products producers, forest group ventures, forestry machinery agents, small and large woodlot owners as well as members of the general public with a genuine interest in enhancing the forest resource. The Association recognizes the importance of maintaining a diverse range of forest products.

FPANS acts as a lobby group and catalyst with other provincial and federal organizations to promote sustainability and diversity of the forest.

FPANS' main focus is a healthy and diverse forest industry through cost effective and environmentally friendly forest management. FPANS would like to see the implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Workers' Compensation Act to reduce accidents in the workplace. FPANS would like to work with government and other associations to ensure efficient transportation of forest products. And develop programs to provide a trained and skilled workforce for the forest industry as well as to cooperate in developing management policies that ensure a healthy, stable and diverse forest.

Additional information about FPANS can be found on their web site at the following address: http://www.fpans.ca/

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters in detail:

Forest Resource - 31,000 acres of forest in Nova Scotia, 70% privately owned, long-term forest management sustainability programs, creation of direct and indirect jobs, and value of industry in both jobs and taxes to the Province, high quality softwood and medium quality hardwood availability;

Sawmills – location of the five large sawmills, Bowater, Kimberly Clark, Stora (Enso), Louisiana Pacific and Minas Basin;

Sustainability of Nova Scotia Forests - sawmills processing of softwoods, saw log and round wood forest, pulp and paper industry, primary wood products, advancing technology, introduction of new forest sustainability regulations, industry and provincial government programs for wood-lot owners;

Annual Allowable Cuts - monitoring the size of cuts, calculating the size of the forest, 5.9 million cubic metres per year of potential wood supply;

Hurricane Juan - removal of the downed trees, complications caused by the presence of the Brown Long Horned Spruce Beetle, government program to assist landowners in cleaning properties, Emergency Measures Organization (EMO);

Communications - modern forest sustainability practices, practicing Canadian Standards Association (CSA) regulations;

Marketing - introduction of Nova Scotia Brand, Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia;

Harvest Methods - selection harvest, a string of pearls, commercial fitting (partial removal or harvest to promote the growth of saw logs), seed harvests for pine trees, shelter wood, variable tension, clear-cutting as a predominant method of cutting, government regulations, greenbelts near watercourses;

Silviculture - harvesting provides the product, silviculture grows the forest, 10,000 acres per year of replanted forests, use of herbicides, Vision, Roundup, glyphosates half-life 3 to 130 days, encouraging the growth of softwood, slowing down the growth of hardwood, complaints due to the aerial spraying of herbicides, routine soil tests;

Silviculture Stumpage Per Cord - $3 per cubic metre on softwood, $0.60 per cubic metre, provincial forestry fund;

Planting of Non-Native Species - provincial government programs encouraging the planting of non-native species, Norway spruce, infestations of insects non-native to Nova Scotia;

Softwood Lumber Dispute - long-standing dispute with the United States of America, Maritime Lumber Board (MLB), possible legislation;

Trucking Regulations - new trucking regulations in 2006, harmonized weights throughout the Atlantic Provinces, reduction of truck loads by 10 per cent on many roads, legislation's effect on the cost of trucking;

Power Rates- power used in the processing of wood, cost to industry, energy conservation measures, staying competitive in the world market; and

Workforce - training programs and courses required for forestry workers, lack of available workforce, and studies on the labour force, types of educational programs.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Committee also approved the Cape Breton and Inverness Federations of Agriculture on the condition that the clerk would contact the Organization and if they wanted to appear, the Organization would write a letter to the Committee expressing their interest in a meeting.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee requested the following additional documentation from the witnesses:

A copy of any/all documentation that the Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia has concerning the use of herbicidal spray versus non-spraying and its effectiveness.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of this meeting transcript is available from the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2004sep28.htm

Groupe Savoie - Westville Division

Tuesday, October 19, 2004

WITNESSES

Groupe Savoie Western Division

Mr. Jean Claude Savoie
President

Mr. Alain Bosse
General Manager

Mr. Jonathon Levesque
Manager

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1978, Groupe Savoie has become an international force in the production of hardwood products. First located in New Brunswick, Groupe Savoie expanded in 1997 by forming Savoie Dickson Hardwoods Limited located in Westville, Nova Scotia.

Because of sustained investment in value added processes and product development, Groupe Savoie Inc. is now one of the main economic forces in the northern region of New Brunswick and Pictou County, Nova Scotia. Groupe Savoie is a leader in hardwood processing and an important player in the forest industry. Strict standards ensure quality products. Harvesting methods are based on the principles of sustained development and environmentally friendly practices, which are supported by industry standards and certification. Cutting and processing methods are based on the maximum recovery of the resource with the use of leading edge technology to allow for large volume production of finished and semi-finished products that are exported globally.

For additional information on Groupe Savoie you can visit their web site at the following address:
http://www.groupesavoie.com/

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Guaranteed Wood Supply – possibility of securing a guaranteed wood supply from Nova Scotia crown land, 25% of capacity to create stability, majority of hardwood supply comes from private landowners, access to crown land hardwood supply through Stora;

Value Added Industries - pre-cut hardwood lumber, negotiations with Nova Scotia Power concerning a special project, patent approval from a New Zealand company, making sporting equipment such as hockey, lacrosse sticks and baseball bats and musical instruments in Canada;

Groupe Savoie loans - $500,000 from ACOA start up money for Westville division operation, loan repayment, grant of $100,000 from the provincial government specifically for training programs for employees, making of green lumber for small sawmills, sorting and grading of product line, guarantee of prices for a six-month period for long-standing customers;

Foreign Competitors - challenges of the global wood market, foreign competitors, strength of the Canadian dollar, wood products value is converted into American dollars;
Volume of Hardwood - Groupe Savoie dispute with the Department of Natural Resources concerning the calculation of the volume of hardwood;

Employment - Groupe Savoie Westville Division 45 employees, plant shut down for three weeks in the summer of 2004 due to lack of supply, guaranteed wood supply would increase the number of employees by 30, company returning all profits into renovating and upgrading the Westville Division plant, purchase of hardwood land tenders; and

New Brunswick - state of the forest industry in New Brunswick, best practices, recent Select Committee.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Committee approved a number of future agenda items. The items are as follows:

Officials from the federal **Department of Fisheries and Oceans** and provincial **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries** concerning lobster poaching, destruction of the habitat, the owner/operator policy as well as the overall picture of the state of the fishing industry in Nova Scotia;

Offshore Technology Association of Nova Scotia concerning their focus on the federal regulatory appeals structure, i.e. 90 days for issues to be cleared up in the North Sea versus 300 here in Canada; and

Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) in order to receive an update on Nova Scotia's offshore industry projects.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee did not request additional information or documentation from the witnesses.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of this meeting transcript is available from the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2004oct19.htm

Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

WITNESSES

Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia (AANS)

Mr. Brian Muise
Executive Director – AANS

Mr. Brian Blanchard
Secretary - AANS
General Manager Scotian Halibut Ltd.

Mr. Glen Brown
Past President - AANS
President Admiral Fish Farms

BACKGROUND

The Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia (AANS) is a not-for-profit industry association founded in 1977. The AANS represents over 200 aquaculture businesses, comprising shellfish and finfish farmers, fish processors, hatchery and nursery owner/operators, land based re-circulation operators involved in alternative species development as well as a range of industry suppliers.

The AANS was formed in order to support the production of quality food in Nova Scotia, creating wealth based on a renewable resource. Developing viable businesses and supporting those businesses when dealing with the government, finding funding, providing services and promoting aquaculture farmers and their products are the main goals of the AANS.

The AANS represents six finfish species producers, six types of shellfish producers as well as marine plants, which produce products. It is a broad-based industry. In 2003, the industry was worth approximately $41 million in Nova Scotia. The industry creates over 1,100 jobs in rural Nova Scotia.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Possibility of Contaminated Food Products - food safety in the aquaculture industry, trace amounts of PCBs detected in salmon, PCB levels are 20 times below the accepted safety standards for human consumption, high content of omega-3 fatty acids reduces the risk of coronary problems, communication of health benefits, impact of electronic media on the industry, funding for interest groups from community groups interested in seeing less Nova Scotia product on the market;

Site Approvals – new aquaculture site approvals, environmental assessment process, creation of a new set of standards under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), Species-At-Risk Act, impact on the environment surrounding an aquaculture farm, strict monitoring programs concerning contamination, pilot project in Guysborough area, government pre-approving aquaculture sites;

Organic Waste - numerous testing and monitoring programs for organic waste, use of good business practice;

Currency Rates - exchange rate of US dollar hurting the industry, decrease in profit margins;

Lack of Operating Capital – farmers versus fishermen, creation of an appropriate business atmosphere for the industry, need for the eligibility for loans with Nova Scotia Business Inc., New Brunswick Business Inc., creation of an aquaculture strategy;

Species - various species, levels of production in aquaculture farms, problems facing rainbow and speckled trout, steelhead, halibut, cod and Atlantic salmon, Norway and Chile flooding the North American market with inexpensive farmed salmon;

Diversification of Species for the Aquaculture Farmer - risk of disease, diversifying species, intricacies of the farming, investigation and education of what species require to thrive, monitoring programs for diseases, global warming causing problems;

Ballast Water Dumping - dumping of ballast water by foreign ships in the Bras d'Or lakes, outbreak of MSX, destruction of the oyster beds in the Bras d'Or lakes; and

Nova Scotia First Program - Nova Scotia brand being placed on products, banding together of various agriculture and aquaculture sectors to promote and sell Nova Scotia's products.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee did not request any additional documentation from the witnesses.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of this meeting transcript is available from the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2004nov23.htm

Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association
and the
Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

WITNESSES

Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association

Mr. Dave Crawford
President

Ms. Kay Wallace
Community Research Coordinator

Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association

Mr. Mike Newell
President

Mr. Eugene O'Leary
Member

BACKGROUND

Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association (GNSBFA)

The GNSBF is an accredited multi-species organization, whose objective is to represent the fishermen within their geographic area. The central issues that the GNSBFA wanted to discuss with the Committee is the Owner/ Operator Policy. The GNSBFA wants to ensure that the wealth within the fishing industry is distributed to the fishermen and the community, not large conglomerates. The ownership of the fishing license is crucial to the industry.

Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association (GCIFA)

The GCIFA was founded in 1974. The GCIFA has over 135 members from Mulgrave to Ecum Secum. The GCIFA is the go-between between DFO and the fishermen. The GCIFA outlined its main concern to the Committee concerning the Owner/Operator Policy, Species-at-Risk Act and current lack of research in the lobster industry.

There are oil and gas developments surrounding the GCIFA's area of interest, and their members monitor all of the activities of these developments very carefully. The recent snow crab fisheries dispute with the fishermen from Newfoundland has had an impact on the GCIFA, since processing snow crabs from Newfoundland is being done in this area.

Both Organizations spoke to the Committee at length concerning what they see as the lack of enforcement and downloading of responsibilities from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) concerning the lobster industry.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Community - community of place versus a community of interest;

Multi-national Companies Funding Fisheries - banks do not grant small fishermen loans, multi-national companies will fund loans, disadvantage to being beholden to large companies, fisheries sector study by the Canadian Council of Fish Harvesters (CCOFH);

Cost of a Fishing License - license cost, average age of fishermen in the regions, possible forming of a policy concerning retirement;

Capital Gains Allowance – Quebec policy of $500,000 capital gains is tax exempt, Nova Scotia's $100,000 capital gains exemption;

Use of Quotas - DFO policies concerning excess quota, permanent fishermen granted a percentage of the catch, raising and lowering the number of temporary fishermen, inability to use the fish quota at the banks as collateral to obtaining a loan, control of the license, trust agreements with multi-national companies in order to obtain a loan, possibility of the creation by the federal government of a Fisheries Loan Board, fishing license cannot be used as collateral.

Creation of Fishing Zones - two fishing zones in Nova Scotia - Gulf Region and the Scotia Fundy Region, boat movement within each of the large zone, conservation programs that need to be maintained within the divisions;

Illegal Fishing - limited amount of enforcement due to a small workforce, DFO budget restrictions do not allow for proper enforcement, notched (undersized) lobsters being processed in the plants;

Owner/Operator Policy - multi-national companies funding of trust agreements, lack of enforcement by the federal government concerning the policy, Canso situation, closing of fish plants and the deaths of small towns, inshore fishing industry being bought by outside interests, such as American companies, Inter-Transferable Quotas (ITQs) from region to region, court cases that DFO is waiting to hear the rulings on before any new policies are put in place;

Strait of Canso Quarry - Canso quarry that produces a great deal of silt, monitoring of silt levels, cleaning up of the silt waste, recovery of fish stocks surrounding the area;

Seismic Testing - seismic testing, damage to the ocean floor, Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (NSOPB), testing of migration in an area that can easily be damaged, oil and gas is a renewable resource;

Workers' Compensation - payment of Workers' Compensation by fisherman, New Brunswick policy, private sector insurance companies coverage;

Grey and Harbour Seal Problem- possibility of a seal harvest, monitoring program needs to be established in order to determine the exact size of the seal population; and

Research – lack of research at the federal level.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Approved Witnesses:

Lobster Fishing Association (LFA) 33 & 34 Lobster Committee (Halifax - Barrington - Digby).

Previously Approved Items:

Cape Breton / Inverness Federation of Agriculture - Some time ago, the Committee asked the clerk to contact this Organization to see if they were interested in appearing before the Committee. If they were interested, the Committee requested that they write a letter indicating so. The clerk made a number of inquiries a few months ago but they have not responded to the inquiries or received any correspondence as of yet.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) (Re: Lobster Fisheries) from the South / Southwestern shore areas appear concerning the recent events in the area. Unfortunately, since the lobster season is open in that area at this time due to scheduling problems representatives are unavailable to attend until the Spring.

MOTION

At the conclusion of the meeting with the Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association and the Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association, the Committee unanimously passed a number of motions.

The first motion was to send a letter to the Hon. Geoff Regan - Minister of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which reads as follows:

> *The Standing Committee on Resources would like to express to you its unanimous support of the Federal Owner/Operator Policy in the 44 ft.11" and under small boat fleet in the Inshore Fishing Sector. The Committee would like to encourage you as the Minister Responsible for this policy to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced in the future.*

The second and third motions that were unanimously passed were addressed to the Hon. Chris d'Entremont – Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The motions read as follows:

> *The Standing Committee on Resources would like you, as Minister, to instruct provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries officials to become more visible and diligent in enforcing the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act respecting fish plants, in an effort to prevent illegal processing activities, within those plants.*
>
> *The Committee would like to request information concerning the role that the Province's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has in the enforcement of Fisheries Regulations. How many fisheries' officers does the Department employ? What are their roles within the sector? Could you please forward a copy to the Committee of the criteria surrounding plant inspections and enforcement procedures? The Committee is also interested in obtaining copies of the federal regulations that Fisheries and Oceans Canada must adhere to concerning enforcement.*

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee did not request any additional documentation from the witnesses.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the transcript from this meeting is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2005feb08.htm

Lobster Fishing Associations – LFA 33 AND LFA 34

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

WITNESSES

Lobster Fishing Association (LFA) 33

Mr. Wilford Smith
Co-Chair LFA 33 - Lobster Committee

Lobster Fishing Association (LFA) 34

Mr. Ashton Spinney
Co-Chair –LFA 34 Advisory Committee
President - LFA Lobster Committee

Mr. L. Wayne Spinney
Vice President – LFA 34 Lobster Committee
Vice President – West Nova Fishermen's Coalition

BACKGROUND

There are 14 Lobster Fishing Associations (LFAs) within Nova Scotia. Each LFA has an elected representative and alternate that meet with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to discuss the concerns of the industry. Two of these Organizations LFA 33 and LFA 34 were asked to appear before the Standing Committee on Resources to discuss their concerns about the lobster industry.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Fleet Separation Policy - fishermen cannot own fish plants, policy is in place for the fleet under the length of 65 feet;

Owner/Operator Policy - trust agreements between fishermen and multi-national companies, circumvention of the owner/operator policy, trust agreements, federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) inability to interfere with trust agreements, foreign control of licenses, communities' loss of control over their own resources;

Transport Canada- certification and standards from Transport Canada, simplification of the regulations;

New Brunswick Court Cases - New Brunswick prosecution, possible provincial and federal decisions that will set precedents, aboriginal rights and license agreements;

Cost of a Lobster License - artificially inflated license costs, Marshall decision to allow aboriginal people into the industry;

Dumping of Ballast Water - foreign ships dumping water contained in their bilge, release of organisms harmful to shellfish, use of satellites to catch the vessels, scientific studies on the effects on the soft shell of the lobster, studies on the diet of the lobster;

Seals – eating habits and destruction created by seals, possibility of a seal harvest;

Illegal Fishing and DFO - DFO plugging loopholes, dwindling resources at DFO, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) auditing fishermen, fish plant purchases from and what quota they are being applied to, purchasing the illegal lobster; and

Capital Gains Tax – Nova Scotia has a $100,000 capital gains exemption, Quebec exemption is $500,000, 2005 federal budget statement of possible change in exemption;

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee did not request any additional documentation from the witnesses.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of this transcript is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2005mar08.htm

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

WITNESSES

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Mr. Les Burke
Regional Director
Fisheries and Aquaculture Management

Mr. Andrew McMaster
Acting Senior Advisor for Large Pelagics

Also in Attendance

Mr. Clary Reardon
Marine Advisor
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

BACKGROUND

The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) was called in to appear before the Standing Committee on Resources to answer questions concerning the state for the fisheries in Nova Scotia.

The Maritime Provinces as a whole have over 8600 kms in coastline. The DFO Maritime office has a staff of 2185 people with 60 office locations throughout the region. The fishing industry in Canada is valued at over $2.2 billion per year. In 2003, the landed value in the Maritime Region was $793 million. The fisheries have changed drastically over the past 15 years due to the collapse in the ground fisheries. Harvesting of shellfish has increased dramatically to make up the difference and gain in revenue. Aquaculture has also expanded exponentially, going from a landed value in 1991 of $95.6 million to $248.9 million in 2001.

DFO has a strategic plan, which attempts to maintain a healthy and productive eco-system with sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in safe and accessible waterways. DFO has two key goals. One is to effectively manage ocean resources and the other is to streamline the environmental processes within the fishing industry.

The Fisheries Act is approximately 100 years old and DFO finds it very difficult to work under its constraints. The Oceans Act is a much newer piece of legislation and it was put in place to coordinate ocean activities such as working with the oil and gas industries.

Past aboriginal treaties are being worked on in order to increase the access to the fisheries for aboriginal people. This has caused some strain within the fisheries community, but DFO is trying to work on solutions.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Enforcement - illegal summer fisheries in southern Nova Scotia, high profile court cases, aboriginal food fisheries, aboriginal people harvesting lobsters in the summer legally, tagged traps and gear;

DFO Budget - $92 million in the Maritime Region with an added $72 million for the Coast Guard, dramatic reduction of budget, funding for fisheries science;

Ballast Water Discharge – MSX, Bras d'Or Lakes designated a non-discharge zone for ballast water, foreign vessels polluting, and difficulty of enforcing laws to stop the discharge;

Inter-Provincial Processing - provincial jurisdictions concerning inter-provincial processing of catches;

Owner/Operator Policy - Atlantic Canada policy that applies to vessels under 65 feet, 2500 designated operators in the Maritime Region, lobster licenses belong to the registered fishermen, illness, doctor's certificate, policy exemption for up to 5 years for medical purposes with a doctor's note attached to it;

Cost of a Lobster License - Pre the Marshall decision costs versus post Marshall decision costs, DFO's buy out creating the artificial inflation of the license;

Trust Agreements – DFO's lack of jurisdiction or authority to stop trust agreements, provincial responsibility, DFO's large-scale review and study-taking concerning changes to the industry report due to be issued by late summer of 2005;

Snow Crab Decision - New Brunswick case, crab licenses, trust agreements;

Fleet Separation Policy – established so that fish processors could not purchase fishing vessels;

IFA in Salmon - diseases in farmed salmon, good husbandry policies, allowing aquaculture sites to remain fallow and clean themselves out over time, water temperature changes killing salmon; and

Seal Harvest - harp seal fisheries success in Newfoundland and Labrador, selling of the pelt as well as the parts of the seal, commercial industry can be developed that can handle the products, Grey seal population in the Maritime Region, development of a market for grey seal products, marketplace and concerns of environmentalists, grey seals and the cod worm, possible commercial harvest of the grey seals.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Committee agreed to write a letter to the Speaker of the House of Assembly to request funds for a tour of fisheries sites in New Brunswick. The Committee would like to hold in-depth discussions with officials in New Brunswick concerning the State of the Maritime Region fishing industry.

Approved Witnesses

The Committee approved having in senior officials from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries appear concerning the state of the fishing industry in Nova Scotia.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee requested the following documentation from the witnesses:

A copy of the numbers concerning the population of grey seals in the Maritime Region, for the last 15 years;

Copies of all of the documentation that DFO has concerning the amounts and types of food eaten by the grey seals in the Maritime Region; and

If available, any information on seal meat and its fat-free qualities and whether or not it has the potential of being used for low-fat diets. Have there been any studies done on this? Have there been any studies done in the test markets in France and China? DFO has been asked to send in information concerning what they know has been done with a list of contacts that would have the information.

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of this transcript is available at the Legislative Committees Office or on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2005may17.htm

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

WITNESSES:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Ms. Rosalind Penfound
Deputy Minister

Mr. Greg Roach
Executive Director - Fisheries and Aquaculture Services

Ms. Nadine MacAulay
Manager - Fisheries, Licensing and Investigations

BACKGROUND

The Standing Committee on Resources has heard from a number of witnesses on the state of the Nova Scotia fishing industry. The Committee decided to call in the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries so that they could clarify the Province's policies, responsibilities and positions on the issues.

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is responsible for managing the resources, conservation policies, science and enforcement of the laws in the marine fisheries. DFO is also responsible for the fisheries habitat. For example, if a person wants to build a wharf they must be in contact with DFO concerning how the structure will affect the bottom of the ocean surrounding the structure. The federal government is also responsible for trade and commerce, navigation of ships and public harbours. The Coast Guard and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are also under federal jurisdiction. When the fish resource hits the dock it then becomes a provincial responsibility. Fish buying, fish processing, licensing, aquaculture, marine plants, marine animals, non-migratory sports fishing and inland fisheries are all provincial responsibilities. There are a number of joint federal and provincial operations with DFO, the RCMP, the Canada Revenue Agency and the federal Department of Natural Resources.

The number one industry in Nova Scotia is fishing. The landed value of catches per year is over $800 million. In 2003, the export value of the fishing industry was at $1.8 billion. There are over 24,000 direct and spin-off jobs created by the fishing industry.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries created a division for Fisheries and Aquaculture Service. This Division is divided into three branches - Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries and Marine Fisheries Services. There is also an Industry Development and Business Services division created to help the industry in their marketing, development, trade work and funding of loans. Nova Scotia also has a Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Responsibilities - duplication of services, red tape, Memorandums of Understanding, proposed solution is that the province would be responsible for the inland fisheries and the federal government would be responsible for all matters up to high water tide in the ocean, incidents reported and no arrests due to lack of knowledge of new or changed regulations;

Responsibility of the DFO Enforcement Officers - federal conservation officers, federal Fisheries Act, possibility of laying charges under the Fisheries Act, names, quantity of fish, whom you are buying from and who you are selling to, as well as the dates and places of all purchases, is just some of the information that is required to prove possible violations of the Act, use of the Canada Revenue Agency and audits of businesses;

Herring - strong market in Europe, underutilized species that can be developed;

Sport Fish Free Weekend - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries program, weekend of fishing for anyone between the ages of 16-65, advertisement of the program;

Lobster Fisheries - use of the Fisheries Loan Board, negotiations concerning financial relief for some of the fishermen, lobster stocks in the Northumberland Strait area, problem with illegal fisheries in the Southwest Nova Area (St Mary's Bay);

Recording Catches of each of the Fishermen and Fish Plants - buyer's records being audited tracking purchases, cooperation of both a federal and provincial level, detailed weekly reports produced by fish buyers, tracking of reports by the federal government, false record keeping, audits are also taking place to ensure the accuracy of the records, federal taskforce set up to try and stop illegal fishing, use of 8 provincial enforcement officers;

Owner/Operator Policy - different fisheries fleets ha[illegible] different s[illegible]ations, policy under federal jurisdiction;

Aquaculture Industry - problems due to the ba[illegible] publicity, fore[illegible] countries flooding the market, under pricing Nova Scotia's product in the US market, [illegible]ederal gover[illegible]ent taskforce on this issue with provincial representatives on the committee to make re[illegible]ommendation[illegible] help the aquaculture industry, diversification of resources within the industry, need for an [illegible]quacultu[illegible] policy framework to be developed, regulations and processes in order to establish an aquacultu[illegible]ite, regional development advisory committees established to streamline the application process in setting up [illegible]n aquaculture site, National Product Animal Health Committee;

Value Added Industry – use of mussel shells, lobster and snow crabs;

Chile – friendly regulatory environment in Chile, business friendly, cost of labour less expensive, less expensive aquaculture product to flood into the US market;

Introduction of Foreign Species – dependent upon the foreign species there are no natural predators in Atlantic Canada, destruction of habitats, identification of people releasing foreign species, prosecution of cases;

Wild Salmon Fisheries - interest groups harming wild fish stocks, aquaculture industry agreement not to locate any aquaculture sites near a place where wild salmon are located; and

Grey Seal Population – eating habits of grey seals, need for a seal harvest.

MOTION

The Committee passed a motion to invite scientists from both the provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss the decline in the fish population in Atlantic Canada in relation to the food chain (grey seals). The invited witnesses are not just limited to federal and provincial representatives if there are more qualified scientists outside of the two departments concerning this matter.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

The Committee requested the following additional documentation from the witnesses:

If in existence, a copy of both Federal and Provincial Sand Worms regulations;

Information concerning the Middle Shoal Dredging effects on the catches in the area;

Environmental Monitoring Programs have been set up to take water samples below aquaculture sites and DFO analyses the water quality to ensure that it is clean. All of the major sites were sampled. Please send a list of the sites that were monitored as well as a copy of the results; and

If possible, a copy of any/all fishing regulations currently in existence in Chile.

After the meeting finished, one of the Committee members requested answers to the following questions:

What is the process that is used by the Federal Government to determine a dollar value for illegal lobster fishing; for example, the federal government estimated that in 2003 the value of the illegal lobster in the black market was $20 million. Does the Department know how this figure was arrived at?

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the meeting transcript is available at the Legislative Committees Office or online at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2005jun21.htm

STATEMENT

OF

SUBMISSION

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

All of which is respectfully submitted to the
House of Assembly this 23rd day of November 2005

John MacDonell, MLA
Chairman

I concur

Bill Dooks, MLA
(Vice Chairman)

I concur

Michele Raymond, MLA

I concur

Bill Langille, MLA

I concur

Wayne Gaudet, MLA

I concur

Gary Hines, MLA

I concur

Keith Colwell, MLA

I concur

Charlie Parker, MLA

I concur

Gerald Sampson, MLA

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APPENDICIES

APPENDIX I

Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association
Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

Hon. Chris d' Entremont
Office of the Minister
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
7th Floor, Bank of Montreal Bldg
5151 George Street
Halifax

COPY

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Dear Mr. Minister:

Recently the Standing Committee on Resources held a meeting with the Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association and the Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association. A motion was unanimously passed at this meeting which reads as follows:

The Standing Committee on Resources would like you, as Minister, to instruct provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries officials to become more visible and diligent in enforcing the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act respecting fish plants, in an effort to prevent illegal processing activities, within those plants.

Included with this letter is a copy of the Tuesday, February 8, 2005 meeting transcript. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA
Chairman - Standing Committee on Resources

Mr. Bill Dooks, MLA - Vice Chairman

Ms. Joan Massey, MLA

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA

Mr. Gary Hines, MLA

Sor Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA

Mr. Charlie Parker, MLA

Mr. Gerald Sampson, MLA

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NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries
Office of the Minister

PO Box 2223, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 3C4 • Telephone 902 424-4388/8953 Fax 902 424-0698/0699 • www.gov.ns.ca

May 4, 2005

Ref. # M253

Ms. Mora Stevens
Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly - Nova Scotia
3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, NS B3J 3N5

Dear Ms. Stevens:

The Standing Committee on Resources recently met with the Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association and the Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association. As a result Mr. MacDonell wrote me on March 8, 2005 requesting information from my Department about our role in enforcing fisheries regulations.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the enforcement of the *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*. This Act regulates fish buying, fish processing, aquaculture and marine plant harvesting. Currently we employ seven fisheries inspectors within the Fisheries Licensing and Investigations Division. These inspectors are responsible for the delivery of the inspection/enforcement program under the Act, as well as a separate but related Act titled the *Fisheries Organizations Support Act* and respective regulations. On a daily basis inspectors audit compliance of licence conditions imposed by the Department on fish buying activities, investigate complaints, monitor buying and selling of fish and fish products, aquaculture operations and the commercial harvest of marine plants.

In order to strengthen and enhance our inspection and enforcement effort Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) officers, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) agents, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspectors, and provincial food safety specialists are appointed as Fisheries Inspectors under the Act. The Department maintains Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of information with CFIA, DFO, RCMP and CRA to assist in investigations and work jointly with federal, other provincial departments, agencies, and industry on matters related to the fishing industry.

.../2

Our fisheries inspectors do not inspect licenced processing facilities directly. Provincially licensed Fish Processing Facilities must meet CFIA criteria. Through an agreement with the federal government, CFIA carries out inspections on provincially licensed processing facilities to ensure compliance. However, we do investigate complaints of illegal processing of fish by non-licensed persons.

Staff have asked DFO to supply you with copies of the federal regulations that Fisheries & Oceans Canada must adhere to concerning enforcement. They will respond to you directly.

If you have further questions or would like clarification on our fisheries enforcement role you may wish to contact Leo Muise, Executive Director, Legislation and Compliance at 424-0337.

Sincerely yours,

Chris d'Entremont
Minister

c Mr. John MacDonell, MLA (Chairman - Standing Committee on Resources)

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

Hon. Chris d' Entremont
Office of the Minister
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
7th Floor, Bank of Montreal Bldg.
5151 George Street
Halifax

COPY

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Dear Mr. Minister:

As mentioned in the previous letter the Standing Committee on Resources held a meeting with the Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association and the Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association.

The Committee would like to request information concerning the role that the Province's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has in the enforcement of Fisheries Regulations. How many fisheries' officers does the Department employ? What are their roles within the sector? Could you please forward a copy to the committee of the criteria surrounding plant inspections and enforcement procedures? The Committee is also interested in obtaining copies of the federal regulations that Fisheries and Oceans Canada must adhere to concerning enforcement.

Please forward the above requested information to the Clerk of the Resources Committee - Ms. Mora Stevens at the Legislative Committees Office when it is available.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA
Chairman - Standing Committee on Resources

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NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries
Office of the Minister

PO Box 2223, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 3C4 • Telephone 902 424-4388/8953 Fax 902 424-0698/0699 • www.gov.ns.ca

April 20, 2005

Ref. # M253

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA
Chairman - Standing Committee on Resources
Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly - Nova Scotia
3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, NS B3J 3N5

Dear ~~Mr. MacDonell~~ John:

Thank you for writing to me following the meeting the Standing Committee on Resources held with the Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association and the Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association. Staff are compiling the information you had requested and Ms. Stevens should have it shortly.

Part of the information your request deals with is the Federal government's note concerning fisheries enforcement. My staff will be communicating with Department of Fisheries and Oceans asking them to respond directly to Ms. Stevens.

Sincerely yours,

Chris d'Entremont
Minister

c Mora Stevens - Legislative Committees Office

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

Hon. Geoff Regan
Office of the Minister
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
200 Kent Street
Ottawa Ontario
K1A 0E6

COPY

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Dear Mr. Minister:

Recently the Standing Committee on Resources held a meeting with the Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fisherman's Association and the Guysborough County Inshore Fisherman's Association. A motion was unanimously passed at this meeting which reads as follows:

The Standing Committee on Resources would like to express to you it unanimous support of the Federal Owner Operator Policy in the 44 ft.11" and under small boat fleet in the Inshore Fishing Sector.

The Committee would like to encourage you as the Minister Responsible for this policy to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced in the future.

Included with this letter is a copy of the Tuesday, February 8, 2005 meeting transcript. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA
Chairman - Standing Committee on Resources

Mr. Bill Dooks, MLA - Vice Chairman

Ms. Joan Massey, MLA

Mr. Bill Langille, MLA

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA

Mr. Gary Hines, MLA

Sub Mr. Keith Colwell, MLA

Mr. Charlie Parker, MLA

Mr. Gerald Sampson, MLA

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John (fax)
Dave M.
JUN 14 2005

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans / Ministre des Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

JUN 9 2005

Mr. John MacDonell, M.L.A.
Chairman
Standing Committee on Resources
House of Assembly Nova Scotia
1001 - 1660 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1V7

Dear Mr. MacDonell: John:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2005, articulating the Nova Scotia Standing Committee on Resources support for Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Owner-Operator policy. I know that this is an important policy for Atlantic fishers, and I want to assure you that I am committed to working to maintain a vibrant, economically competitive, and ecologically sustainable Atlantic fishery.

As you may be aware, in January 2004 DFO held consultations on a discussion document entitled, "Preserving the Independence of the Inshore Fleet in Canada's Atlantic Fisheries." The purpose of the consultations was to seek the views of the fishing industry and other stakeholders on some aspects of DFO's licensing policies: in particular the Owner-Operator and Fleet Separation policies. Through the insight gathered from these consultations - held throughout the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, and Nunavut – the department is drafting a proposal to address some of the issues that exist around licensing policy. Such a proposal would support the independence of the inshore fleet in the Atlantic fisheries, and enable a more modern business environment for inshore fishers. It is planned to discuss this proposal with the fishing industry in the coming months.

I would like to assure you that I am actively taking steps to strengthen Canada's fisheries through DFO's Fisheries Management Renewal (FMR) initiative. FMR is a comprehensive effort to modernize the policies that govern our commercial fisheries on both coasts, and applies many of the objectives and guiding principles of the Atlantic Fisheries Policy Framework (AFPF) that I released last year. You may be familiar with the AFPF, but if not, I offer the following internet address to access the framework and summaries of consultations held in conjunction with this policy work: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/afpr-rppa/home_e.htm.

.../2

Canada

You will find that the AFPF outlines DFO's support for the Owner-Operator and Fleet Separation policies. These policies are integral elements of the Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policies for Eastern Canada, 1996 which remain in effect.

Through consultations with industry representatives and many other stakeholders I have heard that a more open and transparent fisheries decision-making system, which includes a greater role for the industry in decisions that affect their livelihood, are critical for a modern fishery. I have also heard that creating stability in access and sharing arrangements is a necessary "first step" to creating a modern fishing sector. Stability is vital to meet conservation goals, to increase the value of fish being caught, and to give the fishing industry the stable business environment it needs.

It is for these reasons that I announced in March 2004 that sharing arrangements for most commercial fisheries in Atlantic Canada would be stabilized for that year. On March 10, 2005, I made a further announcement to stabilize sharing arrangements for up to five years in most of the Atlantic fisheries as a positive and significant step toward a modern fisheries management system.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is actively working towards providing a more modern governance system for Canada's fisheries for the benefit of a strong, economically and environmentally sustainable, and vibrant fishing industry in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada.

Thank you for articulating your support for the Owner-Operator policy and for your demonstrated commitment to the fishing industry in Nova Scotia.

Yours truly,

Geoff Regan

APPENDIX II

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N5

Hon. Murray Scott
Chairman
Internal Economy Board
Province House
1726 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

COPY

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Internal Economy Board to request funding to allow the Standing Committee on Resources to travel to New Brunswick to hold in-depth discussion with officials in New Brunswick concerning the State of the Maritime Region fishing industry.

Over the past few months the Standing Committee on Resources has held a number of meetings on the State of the Fishing Industry in Nova Scotia. Through this process the importance of the relationship between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia has been pointed out to the Committee on several occasions.

In a meeting with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) the Committee discussed a possible trip to New Brunswick. A copy of the transcript is available on-line at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/r/re_2005may17.htm

A broad estimate for the budget for this trip is $10,000.00. If approved, the Committee would travel between mid to end of September 2005. Staffing will include the Clerk of the Committee or alternate substitute from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to hearing from the Internal Economy Board on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. John MacDonell, MLA
Chairman
Standing Committee on Resources

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Legislative Committees Office
3rd Floor, Dennis Bldg.
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Web-Site: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/resources.html